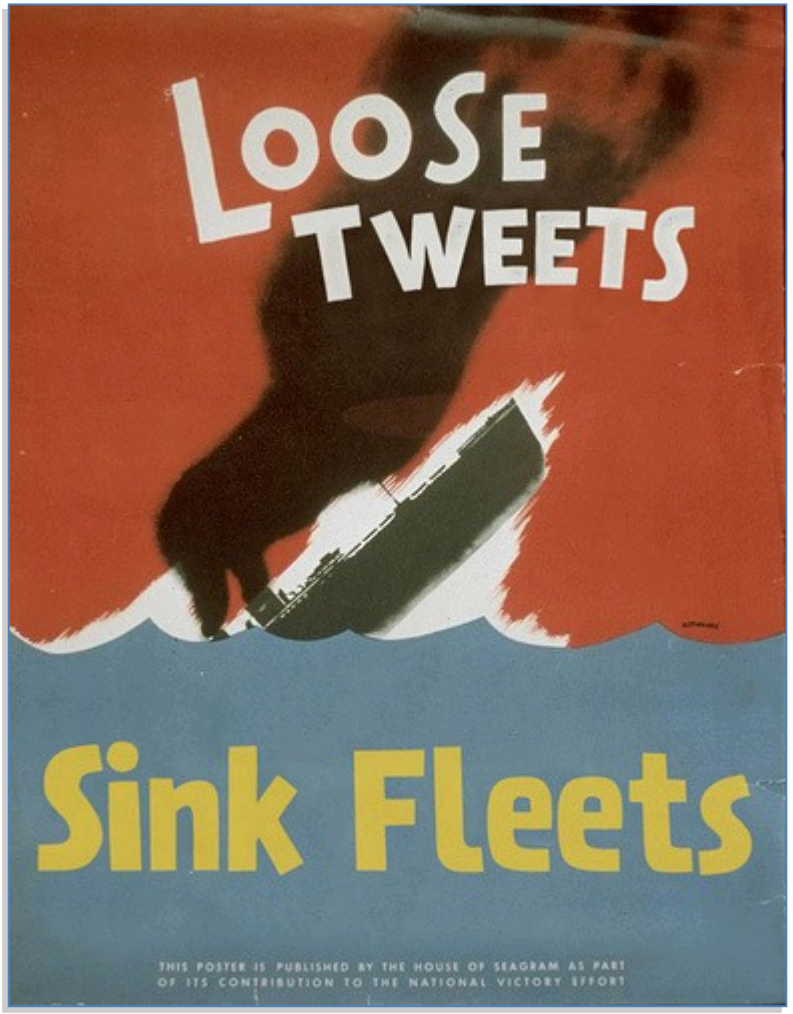
# *Operations Security*

**Prepared March 2015 by CHINFO OI-2 Digital Media Engagement**

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

**We all know that "Loose Lips Sink Ships" and…**

Social media amplifies Operations Security risks because it enables **greater volume** and **increased speed** of information shared publicly.


LOOSE TWEETS
Sink Fleets
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# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

**Managers of official social media presences have an added responsibility to…**

Identify information that may compromise OPSEC and remove it.

Inform Sailors, family members and fans/community members of OPSEC best practices.

***So what things should you avoid?***

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## 1) Sailors or family members sharing too much information…

| Dangerous | Safer |
|---|---|
| My Sailor is in XYZ unit at ABC camp in ABC city in Iraq. | My Sailor is deployed in Iraq. |
| My daughter is aboard the XYZ ship heading to ABC city/country in X days. | My son is aboard Stennis. He is coming back sometime in May. |
| My family is back in Columbus, Ohio. | I'm from the Midwest. |

**BEST PRACTICE:** Protect yourself and your family. Avoid providing details about yourself, especially related to a current deployment. Avoid providing details about your family.

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## 2) Posts about scheduled movements and current or future

| Dangerous | Safer |
|---|---|
| My daughter is aboard the XYZ ship heading to ABC city/country in X days. | My son is aboard Stennis. |
| She will be back on X date from ABC city. | He is coming back home. |

**BEST PRACTICE:** To be safer, talk about events that have happened – not that will happen unless that information has been released to the media. Otherwise, don't provide specific details about ship movements.

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## 3) Detailed personal information…

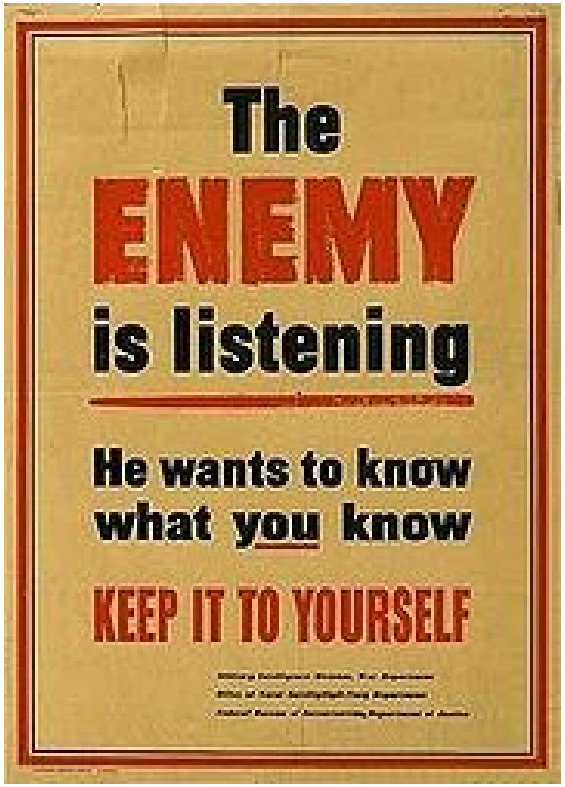
**BEST PRACTICE:** Share information about yourself smartly and be careful about what you disclose about your family and occupation. Use privacy settings to protect your personal information.

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## Sailors and their families should also be particularly careful not to share…

- Sailor's deployment status
- Home address
- Telephone numbers
- Location information
- Schedules

***Your close friends and family members have this information so there is no need to post online.***



# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## Other information that should not be shared

- Description of bases
- Unit morale
- Future operations or plans
- Results of operations
- Discussion of areas frequented by service members (even off-duty hangouts)
- Daily military activities and operations
- Technical information
- Details of weapons systems
- Equipment status

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## What's OK to share…

- Pride and support for service members, units and specialties
- Generalizations about service or duty
- Port call information after it has been released to the media
- General status of the location of a ship at sea (i.e., operating off the coast of San Diego, as opposed to 45 nm north of San Diego)
- Released posts from official U.S. Navy social media presences

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## What should you do if you identify information online that violates OPSEC…

- Record and archive the information and remove it if possible
- Notify your command of any potential OPSEC violation
- Inform the individual of the OPSEC violation. Use this as a teachable moment and provide him/her with OPSEC best practices and resources so he or she doesn't repeat this mistake
- Educate your online community of what OPSEC is, why it is important, and what they can do about it if they think they know of a violation

# SOCIAL MEDIA OPSEC

## Be careful who you friend or those who follow you on social media…

- Not everyone who wants to be your friend or follower is necessarily who they claim to be.
- Be mindful of others attempting to use your social presences as a means of targeting your Sailors and their families.

**BEST PRACTICE:** Let your Sailors know that they should only allow people they actually know in real life into their social circles.

# CONTACT

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